

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels the rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 16 to place the Application in condition for allowance.

As a preliminary matter, the Examiner's initialing of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 20, 2003 is gratefully noted.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and claims 2, 7, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). All of these claims are canceled. Therefore, these rejections are literally moot.

The Examiner withdrew the rejection of claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 and indicated that these claims contain allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3, 8, and 13 are rewritten in the independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15 depend on claims 3, 8, and 13, respectively. Therefore, claims 3-5, 8-10, and 13-15 should now be allowed.

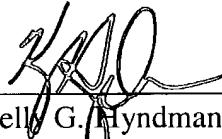
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No.: 09/676,490

Attorney Docket No.: Q61047

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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